

IN THE CLAIMS:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An edge seal assembly comprising:
an edge seal heater element [[wire]];
an edge [[wire]] seal heater element support;
a bearing sleeve which receives a driving member of a film driving mechanism such that said edge [[wire]] seal heater element support retains an edge seal position while said driving member rotates within and relative to said bearing sleeve.
2. (Currently Amended) The edge seal assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said edge seal support edge seal heater element includes an edge seal wire and said edge seal heater element includes an insert head underlying and supporting said edge seal wire, and a housing receiving said insert head.
3. (Original) The edge seal assembly as recited in claim 2 wherein said housing includes a pair of side positioning members between which said insert head is positioned.
4. (Original) The edge seal assembly as recited in claim 3 wherein said side positioning members include a pair of shoes releasably secured to said housing.
5. (Original) The edge seal assembly as recited in claim 4, wherein said shoes are electrically conductive and said housing is electrically insulating.
6. (Currently Amended) The edge seal assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said edge seal heater element support includes a housing and said bearing sleeve includes a friction reducing roller bearing on an interior surface and further includes an intermediate slot dimensioned for receipt of the electrically conductive said housing.

7. (Currently Amended) The edge seal assembly as recited in claim 1 further comprising a nip roller set and with a first roller member having means for attachment with a first rotating roller component of the nip roller set, and said first roller member being free to rotate relative to said sleeve.

8. (Currently Amended) The edge seal assembly as recited in claim 7 further comprising a second roller member having means for attachment with a second rotating roller component of the nip roller set, and said second roller member being free to rotate relative to said sleeve.

9. (Currently Amended) The edge seal assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said edge seal heater element support includes a base block and a housing releasably secured to said base block, and said base block and housing each having a cavity for receiving [[the]] said driving member.

10. (Original) The edge seal assembly as recited claim 9 further comprising a pair of electrical conductor extensions and wherein said base block and housing are releasably secured by said electrical conductor extensions extending within each of said housing and base block.

11. (Original) The edge seal assembly as recited in claim 10 wherein said housing includes a pair of side positioning members between which said insert head is positioned and said side positioning members include a pair of shoes releasably secured to said housing and said conductor extensions are a pair of conductor pins with each being in electrical communication with a respective one of said shoes.

12. (Previously Presented) The edge seal assembly as recited in claim 2 further comprising a guide pin which extends into said insert head which insert head is slidingly supported thereon.

13. (Currently Amended) The edge seal assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said edge seal heater element support includes a head insert and a housing, with said housing receiving said head insert and a pair of releasable [[shoes]] positioners formed of a conductive material and said head

insert heater element insert includes an upper wire portion and two conducting side extensions of said upper wire portion which are placed in electrical communication with said [[shoes]] positioners

14. (Currently Amended) The edge seal assembly as recited in claim 1 further comprising wherein said heater element comprises a wire formed of a material with a [[TCR]] temperature coefficient of resistance value which increases by at least .008 ohm per 10 degree rise in temperature between 350 to 425 degrees °F.

15. (Currently Amended) An edge seal assembly, comprising;
an edge seal support; and
an edge seal wire having a [[TCR]] temperature coefficient of resistance value of .00015 to .0035 [[00030]] ohm/ohm/degree Celsius at 20 degrees Celsius resistivity for a 0 to 100 degrees Celsius and an ohm/CMF from 350 or more, and with a temperature coefficient of resistance value which increases by at least .008 ohm per 10 degree rise in temperature between 350 to 425 °F.

16. (Original) An edge seal assembly; comprising;
an edge seal heater element;
a sleeve;
an edge seal support fixed to said sleeve and supporting the edge seal heater element;
a roller bearing supported by said sleeve and dimensioned for receipt of a roller shaft of a film driving mechanism.

17. (Currently Amended) The edge seal assembly as recited in claim 16, wherein said heater element is a resistance wire.

18. (Currently Amended) The edge seal assembly as recited in claim 16 further comprising a roller which is slidingly received on said sleeve and has means for releasably fixing to a rolling component of the nip roller film driving mechanism.

19. (Currently Amended) An edge seal assembly, comprising:

an edge seal heater element;

a support for said edge seal heater element;

a control system in electrical communication with said heater element and said control system including means for comparing resistance levels at a current temperature and comparing with a [[TCR]] temperature coefficient of resistance value reference.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (New) An edge seal assembly comprising:

an edge wire;

an edge wire support;
a bearing sleeve which receives a driving member of a film driving mechanism such that said edge wire support retains an edge seal position while said driving member rotates within the sleeve, and wherein said bearing sleeve includes a friction reducing roller bearing on an interior surface and further includes an intermediate slot dimensioned for receipt of said housing.

33. (New) An edge seal assembly comprising:

an edge wire;
an edge wire support;
a bearing sleeve which receives a driving member of a film driving mechanism such that said edge wire support retains an edge seal position while said driving member rotates within the sleeve, and wherein said edge wire support includes a housing receiving a pair of releasable positioners formed of a conductive material and a head insert, and said head insert including an upper wire portion and two conducting side extensions of said upper wire portion which are placed in electrical communication with said positioners.

34. (New) The edge seal assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said driving member comprises one of a driven nip roller or a driver nip roller of a driver and driven nip roller combination used in film feed.

35. (New) The edge seal assembly as recited in claim 34 wherein said driving member comprises a driving support shaft connected with said driver nip roller.

36. (New) The edge seal assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said edge seal heater element support includes a housing and an insert head with the housing being received by said bearing sleeve and said insert head being received by said housing and said insert head being in underlying support contact with a section of said heater element that is placed in a compressive film seal formation

relationship when an edge seal is formed in the film being dragged past said section of said heater element.

37. (New) The edge seal assembly of Claim 15 further comprising a control system in electrical communication with said wire and said control system including means for comparing resistance levels at a current temperature and comparing with a temperature coefficient of resistance value reference, and said control being designed to maintain a pre-set, constant seal temperature level during a film sealing formation process.

38. (New) An edge seal assembly, comprising

an edge seal heater element comprising a heater wire and an insert head, said insert head supporting said heater wire, and said heater wire having a presentment face section supported by a presentment facing surface of said insert head for forming a seal in plastic material traveling past said insert head, and left and right heater wire side extension sections extending along respective side walls of said insert head;

a housing having a recess for receiving said insert head, and first and second releasable positioners formed of a conductive material, and said positioners having interior ends positioned for sandwiching said insert head and left end right heater wire side extension sections therebetween; and first and second conducting pins in electrical communication with said positioners.

39. (New) The edge seal assembly of claim 38 further comprising threaded fasteners which retain said positioners in an insert head sandwiching position.

40. (New) The edge seal assembly of claim 38 wherein said housing comprises insulative material for positioner insulation.

41. (New) The edge seal assembly of claim 38 wherein said insert head includes front and rear faces and said housing comprises side walls that retain said insert head from lateral adjustment of said front and rear faces relative to said housing..

42. (New) The edge seal assembly of claim 38 wherein said insert head comprises a ceramic block of material.

43. (New) The edge seal assembly of claim 42 wherein said presentment facing surface of said insert head includes a groove for receipt of the presentment face section of said heater wire.

44. (New) The edge seal assembly of claim 38 wherein said presentment facing surface of said insert head includes a groove for receipt of the presentment face section of said heater wire.

45. (New) The edge seal assembly of claim 15 wherein said temperature coefficient of resistance value increases by about .012 ohm per 10°F rise in temperature between 350 to 425° F.

46. (New) The edge seal assembly of claim 47 wherein said heater element material has an OHMS/ CMF value of 350 to 500.

47. (New) The edge seal assembly of claim 15 wherein heater element metal has an OHMS/CMF value of 375 to 400.